

# Team Washington Homeland Security Update

## Inside this issue:

Evergreen Sentry Exercise	1-2
WATFI Canine Certification	3
Telecommunications Tested at Pacific Peril Exercise	4
Progress on Statewide NIMS Compliance	4
Washington State and B.C. PNEMA Annex B	5
Washington State and B.C. Sign Health Agreement	5
EMD and WSDOT sign Aviation Agreement	5
Governor Announces Awards for New State Emergency Management	6
CEDAP Grants	6
Homeland Security Grant	7
Secretary Chertoff and Minister Day Visit PNWER Annual Summit	8
Senate Approves Senator Cantwell's 2010 Olympics Northern Border Communications Amendment	8
Representative Reichert's Communications Bill Passes House	9
Acronym Roundup	10

## Exercise Evergreen Sentry provides recipe for success

Story and photos by SGT Dan Purcell  
122<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Everett field site, 23 May 06, Washington & Idaho National Guardsmen coordinate with local first responders.

CAMP MURRAY, Washington - Vigilant and ready – those were the hallmarks of exercise Evergreen Sentry 06 (ES06) – a collaborative effort of the Washington Military Department and local first responders. The capstone event of ES06 occurred on the morning of May 23, 2006 when over 200 Soldiers and Airmen of the Washington and Idaho National Guard teamed up with first responders from the City of Everett and Snohomish County, Washington to treat the victims of a simulated terrorist attack.

The event was part of a full-scale homeland security operation that provided local, state and federal emergency personnel an opportunity to hone their interagency communication and emergency response skills. In addition to the Snohomish County incident, other exercise events occurred in Skagit and Whatcom counties, as well as an anti-terrorism drill conducted at the Port of Tacoma. The three day series of exercises culminated late Thursday evening following a week of concentrated field work by the Washington National Guard.

According to MAJ Phil Osterli, spokesman for the Washington National Guard, this is the first exercise in the nation to be built upon the specific training objectives of federal, state and local first

responders. "As for the future this is the first in a series of exercises to be conducted annually.

The success of this exercise sets the stage for follow-on planning and training," Osterli added.

"These exercises help identify gaps in our planning and communications that never would be revealed without them," said Maj. Gen. Tim Lowenberg, commander of the Washington National Guard. "Snohomish, Whatcom, Skagit and Island Counties and their leaders have earned an A+ for the initiative they've shown in being prepared for their citizens," Lowenberg stated at the Everett incident site on Tuesday.

This exercise also inaugurated the first full scale deployment of the Joint Task Force Washington (JTF-WA) – a composite organization specifically designed to provide command and control of state military assets in order to meet Homeland



Everett field site, 23 May 06, simulated casualty being screened by emergency personnel.

(Continued on page 2)

## Exercise Evergreen Sentry provides recipe for success

*(Continued from page 1)*

Security challenges. The JTF-WA was led by Brigadier General James Kelly, Commander of the 66<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade at Fort Lewis. BG Kelly is the first Washington National Guard general officer to complete the Joint Task Force Commander's Course, which certifies him to exercise command and control over active federal and other state National Guard forces, should a Homeland Defense situation dictate.

Other WA NG units supporting the exercise included the 10<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (CST), 420<sup>th</sup> Chemical Battalion, 1161<sup>st</sup> Transportation Company, 248<sup>th</sup> Rear Area Operations Command, 141<sup>st</sup> Air Medical Detachment (Washington Air National Guard), and the Interim SATCOM Incident Site Command Set (ISISCS) – an Air Guard communications package that enhances interoperability between first responders. Additionally, the 101<sup>st</sup> CST from the Idaho National Guard (ID NG) participated in joint operations with its Washington counterpart throughout the three day exercise.

The exercise scenario included the detonation of a radiological dispersion device (RDD) – more commonly referred to as a 'dirty bomb'. The 10<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team (WA NG) was called in and with the help of the 101<sup>st</sup> CST (ID NG) assisted the local incident commander in identifying the type and scope of the contamination.

Victims from the initial blast were brought to the exercise site. Upon their arrival, they were processed through a mass decontamination and medical triage center. The center is part of an enhanced Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package (CERF-P).

The purpose of the CERF-P is to provide follow-on support to civil and military authorities and to help save lives and prevent human suffering.

"We've been training up for this for awhile, specifically the last two weeks just to make sure we could do this and finish up our training," said Specialist Brian Hahne, a member of the CERF-P from Ephrata, WA.

The CERF-P Commander, COL (P) Jeff Mathis III, noted that part of their mission was to show local authorities the interoperability features of their decontamination site.

"We are fully mission-capable right now. We can run between 60 and 100 casualties per hour through our site," said Mathis.

"What really determines the numbers is the severity of the injuries. This is a fairly seamless operation and a great testimony to the Soldiers and Airmen who have been training for this."



Everett field site, 23 May 06, simulated casualty being screened by emergency personnel.



Everett field site, 23 May 06, local first responders prepare simulated casualties for processing.



Everett field site, 23 May 06, simulated casualty being screened by emergency personnel.



## Disaster search dogs put to the test July 15 and 16

The Washington State Urban Search & Rescue Task Force (WATF1) hosted a rigorous evaluation for disaster search dogs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) task forces are supported by highly trained canines and handlers who must pass rigorous national certification every two years.

For the canines, certification includes two steps: a Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) and Certification Evaluation (CE). Prior to that weekend, all the four-legged participants had completed their FSAs, passing tests in obedience, direction and control, agility, barking alerts, and conducting a rubble-pile search. The WATF1-

easy task.

Fifteen teams representing task forces from California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Missouri, Virginia and Washington participated in this event. Evaluations are hosted monthly around the nation, sponsored by local task forces. Eight teams passed during this round, prompting a lot of barking and tail wagging!



hosted event was the CE and consisted of one element – disaster search operations.

The Holroyd Recycling facility in Tacoma hosted the evaluation and featured three unique search sites for the teams to navigate. To successfully complete the evaluation, teams had to locate at least five of six volunteer "victims" (with no more than one false alert), and pass the performance evaluation guidelines. With placed distractions like food and clothing, and the noise of a fully operational recycling facility, this was no

Sponsored by Pierce County Emergency Management, WATF1 has 210 members and is one of FEMA's 28 national teams. The task force is made up of members from Pierce and King Counties and the City of Seattle and is prepared to respond to any federally declared disaster. The team was mobilized for last year's Hurricanes Katrina/Rita; the Shuttle Columbia recovery, 2003; the Pentagon and World Trade Center at-

tacks, 2001; 1996 Atlanta Olympics; the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995; the Northridge, California earthquake, 1994; and Typhoon Bryan in Guam, 1992.



### Team Washington Homeland Security

The Homeland Security Newsletter is produced bi-monthly (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, and Nov) through the combined efforts of Team Washington Partners.

#### Editors

Nancy Bickford  
Jill Bushnell  
Scott Heinze

Washington Military Department  
Building 1  
Camp Murray, WA 98430  
Phone: 253-512-8108  
Fax: 253-512-8497

#### Web Site

<http://emd.wa.gov/5-prog/wahsas/wahsas-idx.htm>

Please send articles, announcements and events for the next issue to  
Scott Heinze,  
Homeland Security Strategic  
Planning Manager,  
at [Scott.Heinze@mil.wa.gov](mailto:Scott.Heinze@mil.wa.gov).

## Pacific Peril 2006 tests emergency telecommunications

The Emergency Management Division's Telecommunications Section (EMD Telecom) provided radio, telephone, internet and communications center services for EMD participants and the four Washington counties participating in the Pacific Peril exercise May 23-25, 2006 at Camp Rilea on the NW Oregon Coast. The system provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security encountered internet outage problems, so the EMD-provided systems were critical.

EMD Telecom established communications with the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), amateur radio operators in all four participating counties, and radio operators in most of the other Western Washington counties.

Telecommunication systems utilized included wireless local area network (LAN), Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)

wireless telephones, intercom, multiple radio systems, satellite internet, satellite telephone, satellite radio, VoIP video, remote video transmission and digital video recording.

The satellite trailer was set up within 30 minutes of arrival. Powered by solar, wind, generator or commercial power, the trailer minimizes the use of diesel fuel for operation. The trailer is capable of providing six cross-band or one in-band radio systems simultaneously. It has four remote cameras and two on-board television stations, one 20-watt and one 3-watt. EMD Telecom also successfully tested the transmission of video to the State EOC.



Jerry Jenson, right, Emergency Management Division's state exercise program manager, works with other state and federal representatives in the controller cell for the Pacific Peril tsunami exercise held at Oregon's Camp Rilea in May. Exercise participants included federal agencies as well as the states of Washington and Oregon and the Province of British Columbia. (EMD Photo)

## NIMS compliance efforts making steady progress

Progress reports from state, county, city and tribal agencies shows Washington jurisdictions are making steady progress towards meeting this year's National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements.

That is the assessment of Jim Kadrmas, Washington Emergency Management Division's (EMD's) NIMS compliance coordinator, based on quarterly reports from 290 jurisdictions for a May 30 reporting deadline.

He said an initial review showed a high percentage of compliance with such requirements as the formal adoption of NIMS, the use of the incident command system and multi-agency coordination systems. Jurisdictions generally reported the lowest compliance with the requirements for completion of introductory and incident command courses.

Kadrmas, who early on established a system that would enable the state to measure state wide compliance and facilitate reporting, developed a team of subject matter experts that toured the state for the purpose of educating organizations on NIMS implementation requirements. He also chairs Washington State's NIMS Inter-

agency Coordinating Group designed to facilitate NIMS coordination efforts between state, local and tribal organizations. Kadrmas noted that the May reports were submitted through a new electronic online NIMS reporting system. The report forms are located through the "Submit NIMS Report" button at the top of the EMD homepage website at <http://emd.wa.gov>. Through this system all organizations will once again be required to submit their final federal Fiscal Year 2006 (FFY06) compliance reports by September 30, 2006.

Information from the quarterly reports is compiled by EMD for review by Gov. Chris Gregoire and Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg, director, Washington Military Department. Washington State must certify this fall to the Department of Homeland Security that the entire state has met FFY06 NIMS requirements in order for the state to be eligible for Fiscal Year 2007 and beyond federal preparedness assistance funds.

The state, local and tribal level requirements for FFY06 are:

- Formally adopt NIMS
- Use the Incident Command System (ICS)

- Use Multi Agency Coordination Systems
- Use Public Information Systems
- Establish your NIMS Baseline
- Coordination federal preparedness funding to support NIMS
- Revise and update standard operating procedures (SOP's) to incorporate NIMS
- Participate in and promote mutual aid
- Complete the IS-700, 800, 100 and 200 courses
- Incorporate NIMS into training and exercises.
- Participate in all-hazards, multi-jurisdictional/discipline exercises based on NIMS
- Incorporate corrective action into response plans and procedures.
- Inventory response assets to conform to resource typing standards.
- Incorporate national standards into equipment acquisition programs.
- Apply standard terminology across the public safety sector.

Additional state level requirements for FFY06 are:

- Formally adopt NIMS
- Monitor formal adoption at the local and tribal level.



## Washington & B.C. sign historic agreements

Washington State and the Province of British Columbia signed a new agreement June 20 to provide for the coordination of resources and support during emergencies. The agreement was signed in Vancouver, B.C. by Gov. Chris Gregoire and B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell.

The agreement updated the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA) which was first signed

in 1996 by Washington, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and the premiers of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

Washington and British Columbia are the first two signatories to the new agreement, which is titled PNEMA Annex B.

The signing of Annex B reflects the ongoing commitment of provincial and state emergency management officials to

share information and resources in response to events like the cross-border wildfires of 2003. It recognizes that B.C. and Washington share natural hazard concerns such as wildfires, major earthquakes and flood and drought issues related to cross-border rivers. It also recognizes that the province and the state share infrastructure vulnerabilities such as power grids, natural gas pipelines and transportation corridors.

## Public health joins across borders to strengthen region

A new memorandum of understanding was signed June 20 by Washington and British Columbia to address public health emergencies. The agreement was signed in Vancouver, B.C., by Gov. Chris Gregoire and B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell.

Under the memorandum, the state and province agree to undertake a collaborative approach to use available health resources to prepare for, respond to and recover from public health emergencies. The memorandum provides a framework for future collaboration, including the providing of mutual assistance in the event of a public health emergency.

## Agencies sign aviation alert memorandum

Camp Murray's state Alert and Warning Center will receive all initial aviation-related emergency calls under an agreement signed June 27 between the Washington State Department of Transportation – Aviation (WSDOT Aviation) and the Emergency Management Division (EMD) of the Washington Military Department.

The center, which is staffed 24 hours a day by state emergency operations officers, already handles response calls for the state departments of Health and Ecology and the off-hours calls for the state Department of Natural Resources.

WSDOT Aviation, which currently receives about 300 emergency locator transmitters notifications each year, will continue to have the overall responsibility for launching air searches.

EMD's state emergency operations officers will receive and screen emergency contacts before forwarding them to WSDOT—Aviation. This initial reception and screening of contacts "will aid in reducing the number of false or non-distress calls" to the WSDOT Aviation, according to Kurt Hardin, manager of EMD's Mitigation, Response and Recovery Unit.



Jim Mullen, left, director, Emergency Management Division of the Washington Military Department, and Jim Sibold, right, director, Aviation Division of the Washington Department of Transportation, discuss the new aviation incident alert and notification memorandum at a June 27 signing ceremony in EMD's Camp Murray headquarters. (EMD Photo by Rob Harper)

EMD will benefit from the increased effectiveness, consistency and efficiency of emergency operations, including search and rescue missions, Hardin added.

## Governor announces new EM grant awards

Governor Chris Gregoire has announced the award of Washington's first state-funded Emergency Management Preparedness Assistance Grants. The grants, which total \$1.6 million, have been awarded to 30 individual organizations, agencies, and tribes.

"These grants represent state investments in community-based programs that protect our citizens and prepare for emergencies by educating our first responders and all Washingtonians," said Governor Gregoire.

"We hope citizens and legislators will see the value and importance of these targeted public safety investments when future budget appropriations are considered," said Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg, director of the Washington Military Department. "We will provide a summary of the program in an interim report that will be filed early in the 2007 legislative session."

The Fiscal Year 2007 state budget authorized the competitive grant program for high impact, short term projects. Eligible projects included the training of public officials: development of comprehensive emergency management plans; administration of joint exercises; and projects that strengthen emergency response, mitigation, preparedness and coordination.

Grants were available to local govern-

ments, tribal governments, regional agencies, regional incident management teams and private organizations. Eighty-nine grant applicants made requests totaling \$8.4 million. Representatives of non-applicant state agencies, academic institutions and emergency management agencies helped the state Emergency Management Division review and rank the applications.

These funds are available for one year only, leaving applicants approximately ten months to accomplish all project activities.

Additional information on the Emergency Management Preparedness Assistance Grants is available on the EMD website at [www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov).

The following is a list of 2006 grant awards:

American Red Cross – Mt. Baker Chapter, \$64,000

American Red Cross Serving King and Kitsap counties, \$99,300

Camano Island Fire and Rescue, \$27,381

Chelan County Sheriff's Office, Department of Emergency Management, \$95,300

City of Kent Emergency Management, \$95,300

City of Orting, \$90,000

City of Shoreline, \$56,531

City of Tacoma Fire Department, \$86,752

Clallam County Public Utility District No. 1, \$90,788

Columbia County Emergency Management, \$15,500

Ferry County Commissioners, \$25,000

Grand Coulee Volunteer Fire Department, \$3,810

Grant County Department of Emergency Management, \$42,627

Grays Harbor County Emergency Management, \$52,300

Jefferson County Department of Emergency Management, \$16,700

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, \$68,536

Lummi Nation, \$94,200

Nooksack Indian Tribe, \$55,143

Oak Harbor Department of Emergency Services, \$26,540

San Juan County Department of Emergency Management, \$44,124

Seattle University, \$19,984

Skagit County Public Utility District No. 1, \$58,000

Skamania County Department of Emergency Management, \$19,374

Snohomish County Parks Department and Evergreen State Fairgrounds, \$68,502

Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, \$40,598

Thurston County Emergency Management, \$100,000

Town of Steilacoom, \$32,900

Walla Walla County Emergency Management, \$15,215

## Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program

The Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) has announced a new pilot program to transfer equipment to smaller jurisdictions and eligible metropolitan areas. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) is designed to complement two SLGCP grant programs, the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) program. The CEDAP is designed to fill gaps where smaller jurisdictions have been unable to acquire needed equipment in the past.

Many small and rural jurisdictions must carry out challenging homeland security missions, including protecting critical infrastructure such as petroleum pipelines, nuclear or hydroelectric power stations, reservoirs and public transportation. Terrorists often choose to live and train in small and rural communities and have the capability to strike at America's heartland potentially undetected. It is likewise recognized that suburban and smaller agencies serve as the support and safety net for larger neighboring cities. Since its inception, DHS has stressed regional response, mutual aid, and the need for equipment

interoperability, a vital component of any response anywhere in the United States. The CEDAP program builds on this philosophy.

For more information, visit the DHS Office of Grants and Training CEDAP page at [http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/equipment\\_cedap.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/equipment_cedap.htm).

## Washington allocated \$32.2M for homeland security

Federal homeland security funding allocated to Washington in Federal Fiscal Year 2006 (FFY06) will total \$32.2 million, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) awards announced May 31.

The state's FFY 06 allocation represents a decrease of \$9.6 million from Fiscal Year 2005 and \$28.2 million from Fiscal Year 2004.

Governor Chris Gregoire criticized the reductions in a June 2 letter to DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff.

"Our state continues to face major threats from our enemies abroad," said Gregoire. "Washington is the heart of the country's aerospace industry, a border state that apprehended a terrorist trying to enter our country, and a state with ports that see over 1.8 million cargo containers every year. This is no time to hamstring Washington's and every other state's ability to protect our citizens."

"Homeland security funding from the federal government is spiraling downward at an unacceptable pace," she said. "The reductions give us no confidence that this Administration is fully committed to our security."

Arel Solie, supervisor of the Emergency Management Division's (EMD's) homeland security section, said EMD would meet with representatives of local jurisdictions, state agencies and tribes to determine how to match the federal award with homeland security grant requests. Specific grant awards will be announced by fall, she said.

The following is a breakdown of the state's Fiscal Year 2006 homeland security grant allocation:

### State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

The state received a grant allocation of \$12.7 million, compared to \$21.2 million in the previous year. This was a nationwide competitive grant with most of the funds allocated on the basis of risk and the effectiveness of the grant application.

The state of Washington was among the top 25 per cent of all states and territories in the risk analysis assessments. The investment justification was rated as "excellent" for relevance to national preparedness goals, connection to the enhancement plan, and feasibility and reasonableness. The justification received ratings of "above average" for complete picture and innovativeness.

Two investment justifications were rated as exceptional and were placed in the top 15 per cent of all investment justification submissions. These justifications were in the areas of building regional interoperable communications capabilities and for the enhancement of responder teams to operate in a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high explosive environment.

### Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP)

The award was \$9.2 million, compared to \$7.7 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2005. This was a nationwide competitive grant. Awards were largely allocated on the basis of risk and effectiveness of grant application.

### Citizen Corps Program (CCP)

The award was \$384,998 compared to \$269,275 in Federal Fiscal Year 2005. It was a pre-determined grant award designated by DHS.

### Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)

The award was \$696,990, compared to \$682,776 in Federal Fiscal Year 2005. It was a pre-determined grant award designated by DHS.

### Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)

The award was \$9.1 million, compared to \$11.9 million in Federal Fiscal Year 2005. The urban area of Seattle and Bellevue and the counties of King, Snohomish and Pierce (the Seattle UASI area) was among the selected urban areas allowed to apply for this grant. Risk and effectiveness of application determined the allocations.

The Seattle UASI area was among the bottom 50 per cent of all urban areas based on DHS' comparative risk analysis.

The Seattle UASI investment justification received marks of "excellent" for relevance to national preparedness goal implementation, connection to enhancement plan, and complete picture. The justification was ranked as "above average" for innovativeness and feasibility and reasonableness.

Grant	FY05 Actual	FY06 Actual	FY06 (if FY05 methodology was used)	Difference (net effect of FY06 allocation)	How risk factored into award
SHSP/LETPP/CCP/MMRS	\$41,870,297	\$23,071,988	\$19,127,850	Increase of \$3,944,138	Risk methodology benefited state
UASI	\$11,840,034	\$9,150,000	\$10,141,289	Decrease of \$991,289	Risk methodology did not benefit UASI
TOTAL	\$53,710,331	\$32,221,988	\$29,269,139	Overall increase of \$2,952,849	

## Secretary Chertoff and Minister Day visit PNWER summit

The Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety, and Michael Chertoff, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security addressed 500 delegates from five northwest states and western Canada during the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit in Edmonton on July 16th. Secretary Chertoff and Minister Day discussed a range of issues including strengthening security, land pre-clearance, improving emergency management and facilitating cross-border trade and travel. Delegates asked questions after the speeches about improving cross border communication between infrastructures, addressing border security issues in preparation for the 2010 Olympics and the status of the passport requirement.

Following the keynote speeches, Secretary Chertoff and Minister Day held a roundtable discussion with 35 PNWER US/Canada delegates from the public and private sectors. This rare opportunity gave participants a chance to voice concerns about the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), border security issues related to 2010 and critical infrastructure resiliency. During the meeting, the Secretary and Minister spoke highly of PNWER's efforts to address cross border critical infrastructure security issues. PNWER was referenced in the July release of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan as the model regional pub-

lic-private partnership addressing critical infrastructure protection issues. For more information about the PNWER Annual Summit please see <http://pnwer.org/meetings/Summer%202006/06%20Summit.htm>



The Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety, and Michael Chertoff, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security at the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit in Edmonton on July 16, 2006. (PNWER Photo)

## Senate approves Cantwell plan to improve border crossing efficiency and safety in time for Vancouver Olympics

For Immediate Release  
July 13, 2006

Contact: Charla Neuman  
(202) 224-8277 DC Press Office

***Cantwell amendment will improve communications at border to facilitate secure, efficient border crossings, bolster tourism and protect communities during 2010 Olympics***

WASHINGTON, DC – Thursday, the Senate unanimously approved U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell's (D-WA) proposal to improve communication among state, local, federal, and Canadian law enforcement and security agencies in time for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia. Cantwell's amendment requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to work with the State Department, the Federal Communications Commission, and Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and Alaska state governments to develop a plan for interoperable communications. The Cantwell-sponsored amendment was added Thursday to legislation to fund the Department of Homeland Security during 2007.

**"The Olympics in 2010 should be an exciting time of celebration and universal pride, not massive border delays and fear," said Cantwell. "Our region needs a solid plan to make sure first responders and border personnel in the U.S. and Canada can communicate effectively with all other agencies involved with the Olympics and throughout the region. With a solid plan in place, we can respond rapidly to any potentially dangerous situation that could arise, while helping to keep our border traffic moving."**

Cantwell proposed the amendment at the suggestion of the Washington State Military Department. If the proposal becomes law, DHS has six months to complete the plan and submit it to Congress, leaving enough time for federal, state, and local governments to apply for the federal funding needed to implement the plan in time for the 2010 Olympics. A comprehensive

plan that addresses both the technical and operational aspects of effective communication is a key part of securing the public safety and smooth border crossing needed to boost Washington's tourism industry during the 2010 Olympics.





## Freshman Chairman Reichert passes major legislation

For Immediate Release  
July 25, 2006

Contact: Kimberly Cadena  
(202) 225-7761

*Reichert Emergency Communications Bill Addresses 9/11 Commission findings, Katrina lessons*

**Washington, DC** – Rep. Dave Reichert (WA-08), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology, successfully ushered his first major piece of legislation through the House today. Chairman Reichert's bill, the *21st Century Emergency Communications Act of 2006* (H.R. 5852), will improve emergency communications in the event of a major incident, such as a terrorist attack or natural disaster. Chairman Reichert's bi-partisan bill has four Republican co-sponsors and six Democrat co-sponsors. It overwhelmingly passed the House 414 - 2.

"Until the events of September 11, 2001, many people simply assumed that first responders from different disciplines and jurisdictions could communicate with one another," Chairman Reichert explained. "Unfortunately, that was not the case then and as demonstrated by the inadequate response to Hurricane Katrina, that is not the case now. It is intolerable that our nation's law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical services personnel still confront many of the same emergency communication problems I did as a rookie cop in 1972. Today in passing this bill, Congress sent a message to our nation's first responders that we support them in their efforts to protect us. This legislation goes above and beyond the recommendations of the 9/11 commission regarding interoperability and I'm glad I was a part of fulfilling one of their recommendations."

"This bill will help save lives, and I thank Chairman Reichert for his leadership on this issue," said U.S. Rep. Peter T. King (NY), Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. "Without him, this important piece of legislation never would have been possible."

Chairman Reichert has approached this

problem in a bi-partisan way. Chairman Reichert and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science, and Technology, Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), have conducted four hearings on the state of emergency communications and jointly drafted legislation from the testimony they heard.

*The 21st Century Emergency Communications Act of 2006:*

Establishes an accountable, senior-level official at the Department of Homeland Security to oversee the Department's disparate activities and problems related to emergency communications;

Mandates a National Emergency Communications Report to recommend goals and timeframes for the achievement of redundant, sustainable, and interoperable emergency communications systems;

Requires a baseline assessment of current emergency communications capabilities and periodic assessments on progress in filling in existing gaps;

Accelerates the development of national standards for emergency communications equipment;

Requires state and local governments to establish effective Statewide Interoperable Communications Plans before being able to use DHS grant funds for emergency communications; and

Facilitates coordination on emergency communications by establishing regional working groups comprised of federal, state and local officials, first responders, and other relevant stakeholders; and

Elevates the importance of emergency communications within the Department of Homeland Security, enhances accountability and resources to ensure first responders on the ground can communicate with one another.



Chairman Reichert and Ranking Member Pascrell taking questions at the press conference following debate on the House floor for HR 5852.

## Acronym Round-Up

CBRNE—Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high yield Explosive

CCP—Citizen Corps Program

CE—Certification Evaluation

CEDAP—Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program

CERF-P—Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high yield Explosive (CBRNE) Enhanced Response Force Package

CIP—Critical Infrastructure Protection

COL—Colonel

CST—Civil Support Team

DHS—Department of Homeland Security

EMD—Emergency Management Division

EOC—Emergency Operations Center

ES06—Evergreen Sentry 06

FEMA—Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS)

FFY—Federal Fiscal Year

FSA—Foundation Skills Assessment

HLS—Homeland Security

ICS—Incident Command System

ISISCS—Interim SATCOM Incident Site Command Set

ID NG—Idaho National Guard

JTF-WA—Joint Task Force Washington

LAN—Local Area Network

LETPP—Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program

MAJ—Major

MMRS—Metropolitan Medical Response System

NIMS—National Incident Management System

OGT—Office of Grants and Training (DHS)

PNEMA—Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement

PNWER—Pacific Northwest Economic Region

SOP—Standard Operating Procedure

RDD—Radiological Dispersion Device

SHSP—State Homeland Security Program

SLGCP—Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness

UASI—Urban Area Security Initiative

US&R—Urban Search and Rescue

VoIP—Voice over Internet Protocol

WA NG—Washington National Guard

WATF1—Washington State Urban Search and Rescue Task Force

WHTI—Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative

WSDOT—Washington State Department of Transportation